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Bishop Museum Celebrates Lā Kū'oko'a, the Independence Day of the Hawaiian Kingdom

Special evening event to include presentations, exhibition walkthroughs, mele, hula, and mea 'ai (food).

Honolulu, Hawai'i — [Bishop Museum](#), the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History, celebrates Lā Kū'oko'a, the Independence Day of the Hawaiian Kingdom on Wednesday, Nov. 27 from 3-7 p.m. on its Gallery Lawns and in its Hawaiian Hall Complex.

The special evening event will include presentations, exhibition walkthroughs, mele, hula, and mea 'ai (food) provided by Hale Kealoha.

Lā Kū'oko'a is a Hawaiian national holiday that commemorates the independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom. On Nov. 28, 1843 the sovereignty of the Kingdom was formally recognized by England and France through the signing of the Anglo-French Proclamation and a verbal acknowledgement with the United States. Lā Kū'oko'a has been revered and celebrated annually ever since.

"Lā Kū'oko'a is a beloved celebration for many Bishop Museum staff, and we're pleased to once again hold this annual event at the Museum," said Taylour Chang, Bishop Museum director of public programs and community engagement. "Our goal is to continue presenting the Museum as a place where gatherings such as this can be had, and to pay tribute to the legacy of our kūpuna and our ali'i. In this way, we honor our living culture."

Bishop Museum's Lā Kū'oko'a event includes a special presentation by Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio, Ph.D. and Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio, Ph.D., as well as a walkthrough of the Museum's [Kū a Lanakila!](#) exhibition by Curator Sarah Kuaiwa, Ph.D.

"In our collections, we have source materials that represent what Hawai'i's ali'i and lāhui stood for in their lifetimes," shared Chang. "It is our responsibility to honor and celebrate the lives and work of our ali'i and the people of the Hawaiian Kingdom through these observances."

The Lā Kū'oko'a event is free with registration. Updated information can be found at BishopMuseum.org/LaKuokoa.

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About Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, the State of Hawai‘i Museum of Natural and Cultural History:

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum’s mission is to inspire our community and visitors through the exploration, celebration, and perpetuation of the extraordinary history, culture, and environment of Hawai‘i and the Pacific. The Museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in memory of his wife Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a royal descendant of King Kamehameha I. Today, the Museum thrives as an educational center for the community and is widely regarded as the world’s premier institution for Hawaiian and Pacific content.

Bishop Museum’s vast collections of more than 25 million objects and specimens represent nine disciplines and include more than 22 million biological specimens, over 2 million cultural objects, 115,000 historical publications, and 1 million photographs, films, works of art, audio recordings, and manuscripts. These collections tell the stories of the cultures and biodiversity of Hawai‘i and the Pacific as well as the proud legacy of scholarly research spanning 130 years.

Bishop Museum proudly serves more than 200,000 visitors each year, including 20,000 children on school visits.

To learn more about the Museum’s research, collections, exhibits, and programs, visit [BishopMuseum.org](https://www.bishopmuseum.org), follow @BishopMuseum on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), become a fan of Bishop Museum on [Facebook](#), visit Bishop Museum’s [YouTube](#) channel, or call (808) 847-3511. Bishop Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Bishop Museum is proud to be an Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer, and welcomes applicants from the military, veterans, and those with disabilities. Learn about careers at Bishop Museum at [BishopMuseum.org/Careers](https://www.bishopmuseum.org/Careers) and on its [LinkedIn](#) page.

[Bishop Museum Press](#) is Hawai‘i’s oldest book publisher and one of the first scholarly publishers in the Western Hemisphere, and has published over 1,200 titles and distributed over 1 million books in 72 countries worldwide.

Past news releases can be viewed and downloaded at [BishopMuseum.org/NewsRoom](https://www.bishopmuseum.org/NewsRoom).